



National Weather Service Grand Rapids Event Summary

Severe storms along the I-94 corridor

08/24/11

Overview

Strong to severe thunderstorms developed over Southwest Lower Michigan in the evening on Wednesday, August 24th. These storms were associated with a moderately strong cold front moving southeast into a very unstable air mass over Lower Michigan. Due to the strong instability, thunderstorms developed very rapidly. Below is a timeline of the events:

Around 615 PM EDT

Strong to severe thunderstorms were over parts of Eastern Lower Michigan (Fig. 1). Light precipitation that did not reach the ground stretched from west of Grand Rapids to the northern thumb of Michigan (Figs. 1-3).

700 PM to 800 PM

Storms rapidly developed over central and south-central Lower Michigan (Figs. 3-4).

800 to 815 PM

Other storms rapidly developed over Van Buren and Kalamazoo Counties (Figs. 4-5). These storms produced quarter sized hail and estimated 60 MPH winds in Schoolcraft between 800 and 815 PM.

After 800 PM

The storms became a line of strong to severe storms that extended from Northern Indiana into Southern Ontario (Figs. 6-7).

Several excellent pictures were taken of these unusually beautiful thunderstorms. A couple of examples can be seen in Figure 8.

Send us your reports!

The NWS in Grand Rapids issued several Severe Thunderstorm Warnings along the I-94 corridor, including Van Buren, Kalamazoo, Calhoun, and Jackson Counties. Please contact us if you observed large hail or wind damage in your area during this event. We can be reached by calling 616-949-0643 or by e-mailing us at w-grr.webmaster@noaa.gov.

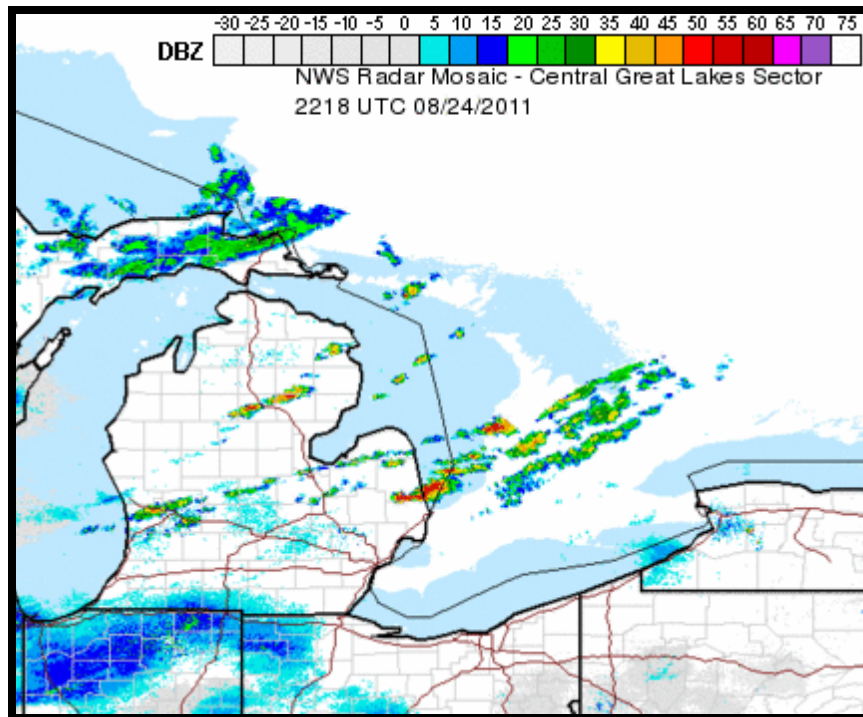


Fig. 1. Radar summary at approximately 615 PM EDT.

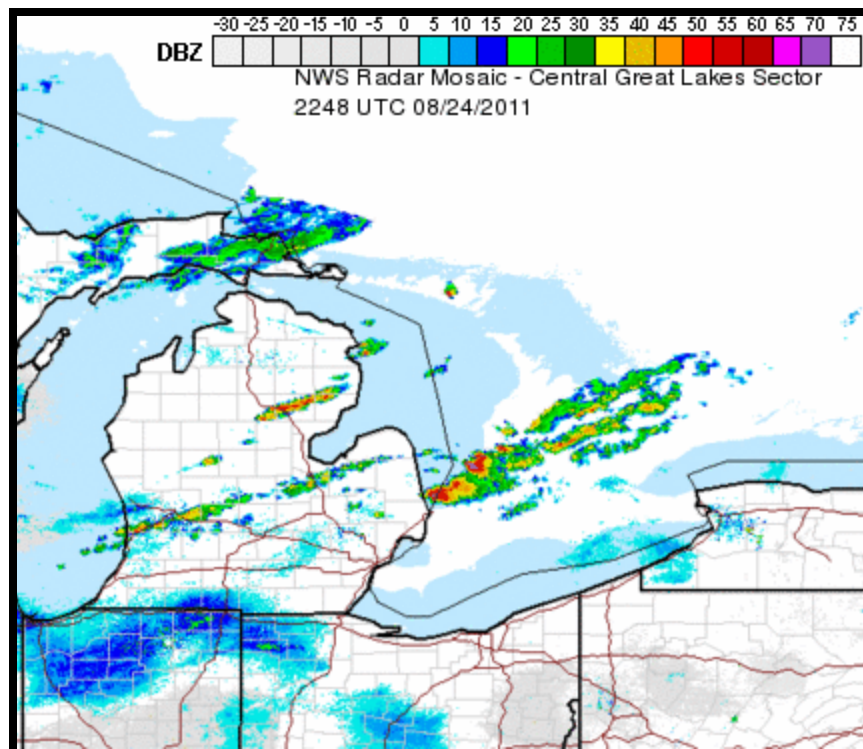


Fig. 2. Same as Fig. 1, except around 645 PM EDT.

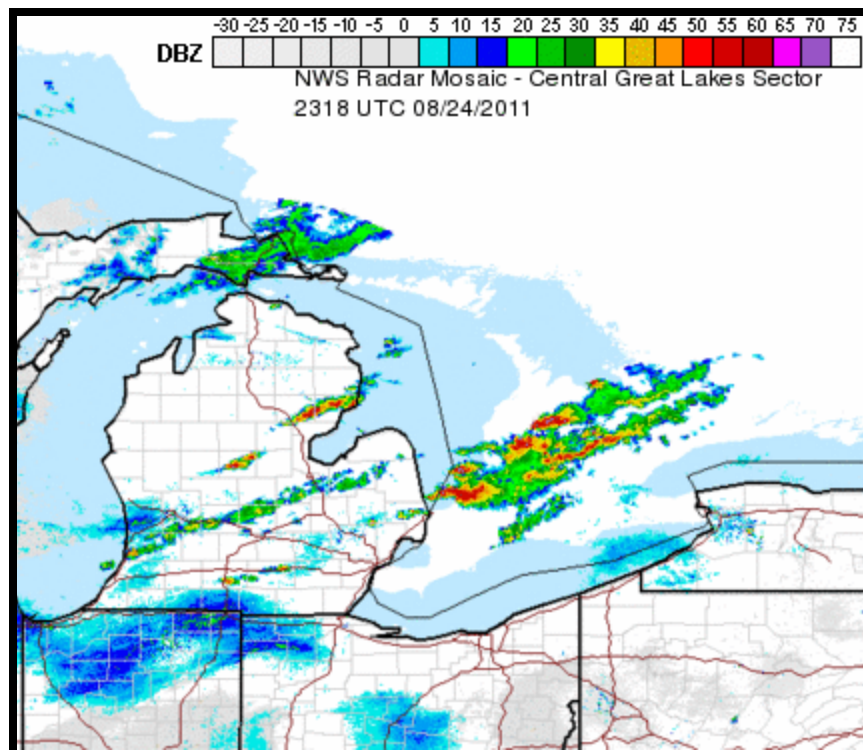


Fig. 3. Same as Fig. 1, except around 715 PM EDT.

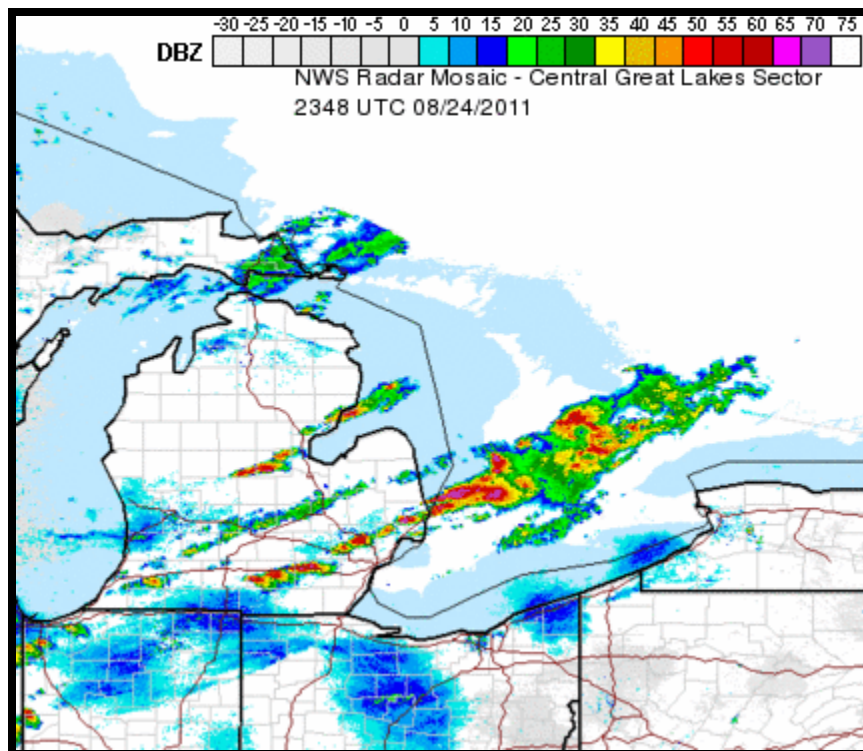


Fig. 4. Same as Fig. 1, except around 745 PM EDT.

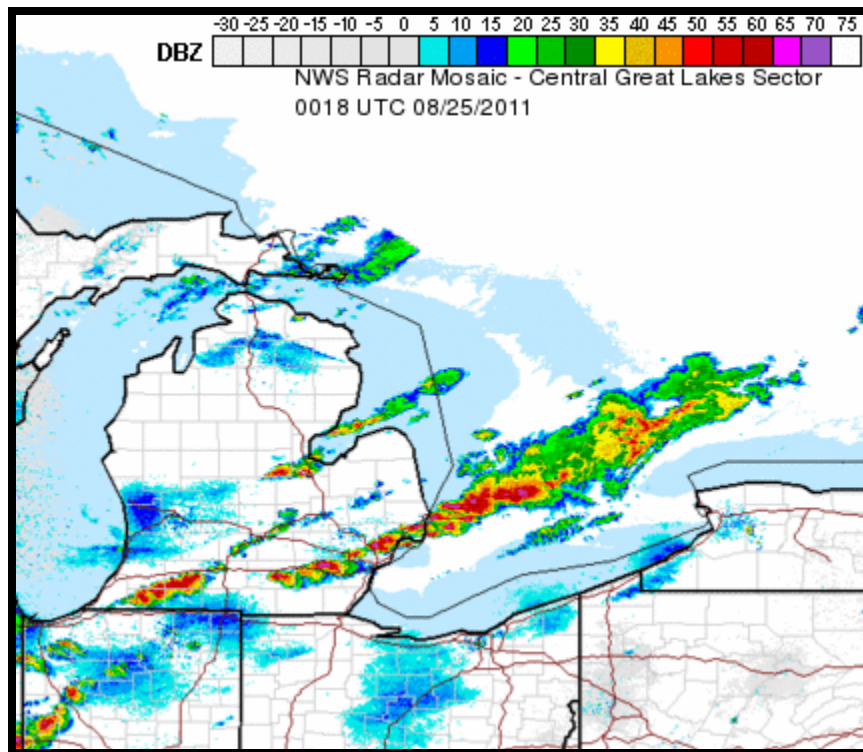


Fig. 5. Same as Fig. 1, except around 815 PM EDT.

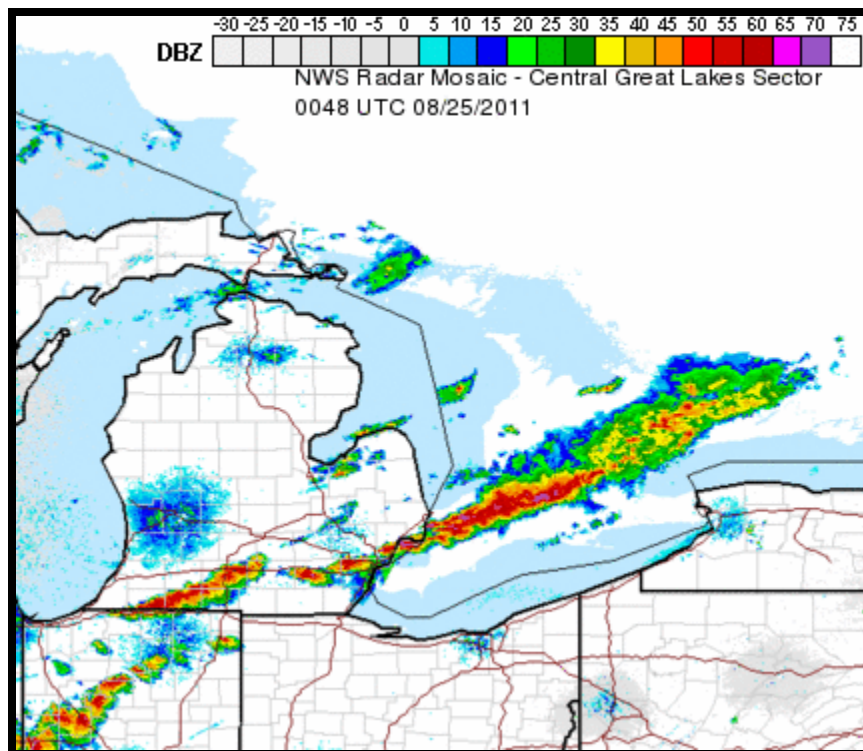


Fig. 6. Same as Fig. 1, except around 845 PM EDT.

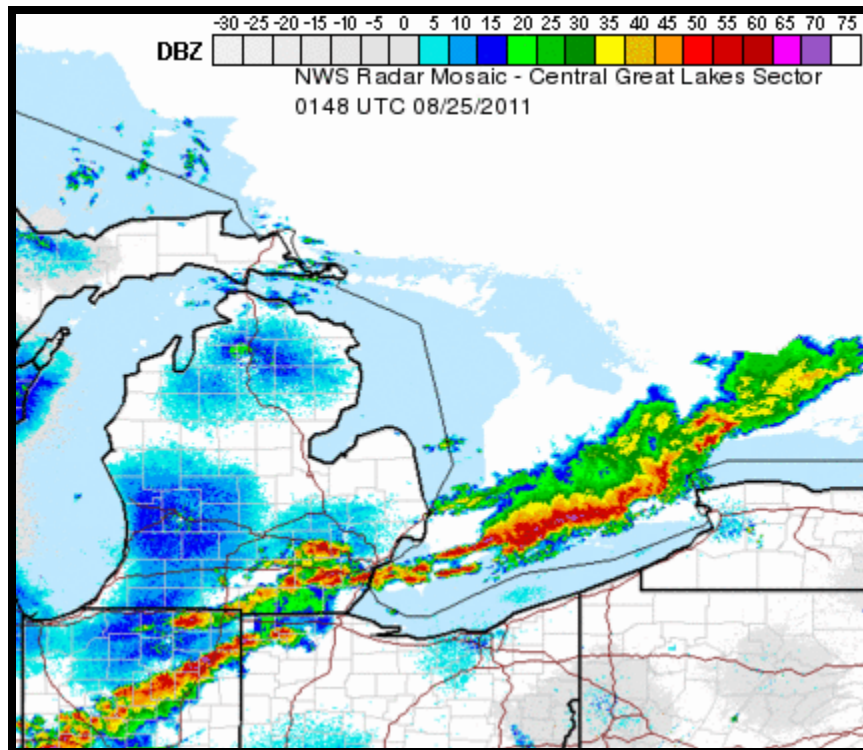


Fig. 7. Same as Fig. 1, except around 945 PM EDT.



Fig. 8. Developing and mature thunderstorm photographs taken from Battle Creek.
Photos courtesy of David Smith.

Storm Reports

PRELIMINARY LOCAL STORM REPORT...SUMMARY
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE GRAND RAPIDS MI
1049 PM EDT WED AUG 24 2011

..TIME...	...EVENT...	...CITY LOCATION...	...LAT.LON...
..DATE...MAG....	..COUNTY LOCATION..ST..	...SOURCE....
	..REMARKS..		
0748 PM	HAIL	CONCORD	42.18N 84.64W
08/24/2011	E0.25 INCH	JACKSON MI	PUBLIC
0802 PM	TSTM WND GST	NW SCHOOLCRAFT	42.12N 85.64W
08/24/2011	E50.00 MPH	KALAMAZOO MI	TRAINED SPOTTER
0804 PM	HAIL	NW SCHOOLCRAFT	42.12N 85.64W
08/24/2011	M1.00 INCH	KALAMAZOO MI	TRAINED SPOTTER
0811 PM	HAIL	VICKSBURG	42.12N 85.54W
08/24/2011	M0.25 INCH	KALAMAZOO MI	BROADCAST MEDIA

REPORT COURTESY OF WOODTV. TIME IS ESTIMATED.

0815 PM	TSTM WND GST	SCHOOLCRAFT	42.12N 85.64W
08/24/2011	E60.00 MPH	KALAMAZOO MI	TRAINED SPOTTER

WIND GUST ESTIMATED AT 60 MPH IN DOWNTOWN SCHOOLCRAFT.
HAIL UP TO QUARTER SIZE IS COVERING THE GROUND. US 131 IN
SCHOOLCRAFT HAS STANDING WATER.

0905 PM	TSTM WND DMG	1 SE ALBION	42.24N 84.74W
08/24/2011		CALHOUN MI	LAW ENFORCEMENT

A TREE CAME DOWN ON WIRES NEAR B RD AND 29 MILE RD. TIME
IS APPROXIMATE.

0913 PM	TSTM WND DMG	RIVES JUNCTION	42.38N 84.46W
08/24/2011		JACKSON MI	LAW ENFORCEMENT

REPORTS OF BRANCHES AND POWER LINES DOWN FROM TOMPKINS TO
RIVES JUNCTION TO HENRIETTA. TIME IS APPROXIMATE.